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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Honduras

SUBJECT Port Information: Puerto Cortés

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PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

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SOURCE Merchant mariner who visited the port of Puerto Cortés, Honduras, on 15 Mar 54 aboard his ship.

The Navy interviewing officer assigned an evaluation of "F-2" to the following report.

THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO CIA FOR IAC DISSEMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3 c OF NSCID #7 (DIO, 8ND No 106-54).7

1. The information contained herein is based on personal observations of the source.
2. Anchorage Anchorage is located south of dock where depth is approximately 35'.
3. Boarding Inspection Boarding party for subject port is composed of six persons: two fr. Comandancia, one from Aduana, one doctor, one United Fruit Company representative, and one clerk. Duration of boarding inspection is 15 to 30 minutes, depending on number of passengers.
4. Port Administration Harbor master is in charge of entering and clearing vessels, and he is also in charge of all imports and exports. Comandante de Armas and Administrador de Aduana are responsible for port security. No unions exist in subject port.
5. Line Handling Boat A wooden, 50-horsepower, General Motors diesel-powered motor-boat is used for line handling on United Fruit Company vessels.
6. Wharf Facilities Average of 250 tons of general cargo is handled per eight-hour shift. Two large or three small vessels can be worked simultaneously with a normal turn-around of 24 hours. Stevedore gangs of six stevedores work eight-hour shifts, but by paying overtime this work can be extended through the night. Limiting factors in handling cargoes are shortage of space at dock to discharge and/or load and delay involved in waiting for loaded cars to be discharged. Distance between low water line and wharf deck is approximately 36'.
7. Crane Subject port has only one crane, a steam-powered, 25-ton capacity Browning railroad type which is in fair condition. Its hoist radii are:

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- 2 -

49,000 lbs.	13'
43,400 "	15'
31,500 "	20'
24,500 "	25'
19,700 "	30'
16,500 "	35'
14,100 "	40'
12,100 "	45'

Crane may be operated at any point on Tela Railroad Company or Ferrocarril Nacional de Honduras tracks in subject port, Tela, La Lima, or San Pedro Sula.

8. Warehouses Warehouse on wharf is constructed of iron girders and asbestos roofing open on all sides. Height is 21'3" shoreside and 30' seaside. Floor load capacity is 22,680 sq ft (630' x 36'). Four railroad tracks run through wharf to facilitate loading operations. Fire protection is afforded by 2½" hoses located in strategic places with ample water pressure available. Mechanical conveyors are owned by Tela Railroad Company for loading bananas.
9. Railroad Facilities Engines and rolling stock are in good condition in subject port. Equipment is property of Ferrocarril Nacional de Honduras, the government railroad, and includes 13 locomotives, 19 coaches, 38 boxcars, 125 flat cars, and 49 rock cars. An average of five trains each day, two passenger, two freight, and one spot or work train, operates from subject port. Main line track is from Government Station to La Laguna; two tracks are from Government Station to Campo Rojo which is the United Fruit Company area of subject port. When additional passengers are handled, more passenger coaches are put on to meet demand. Two shops are maintained by Tela Railroad Company and one by Ferrocarril Nacional de Honduras. A yard is located near the Government Station for Ferrocarril Nacional de Honduras and another yard in Campo Rojo for Tela Railroad Company. Main line railroad connection from subject port to San Pedro Sula and Potrerillos is Ferrocarril Nacional de Honduras. Only highway travel is possible from Potrerillos to Tegucigalpa.
10. Air Service Daily scheduled flight service is maintained by SAHSA (Servicio Aereo de Honduras, S A) between subject port and San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa, Tela, and La Ceiba.
11. Building Materials Sand is available with advance notice. Gravel, crushed rock, cement, lumber, wire, and fencing are also available.
12. Radio Radio in subject port is owned by Tropical Radio Service Corporation and operates on power of 150 watts. Its call letters are HRC, and it uses frequencies 6905 kc, 4230 kc, and 5145 kc. Radio and radio telephone (fixed service only) in addition to radio beacon service is available.
13. Telephone Two types of service are provided: Government and United Fruit Company. Twenty-four hour service is available including Sundays and holidays. Government service uses Western Electric non-automatic service, and United Fruit Company uses local battery telephone service (simple circuit). Company has 135 subscribers and the Government has 125 subscribers.
14. Telegraph Complete telegraph service is available to all Honduran cities and adjacent countries.
15. Water An ample supply of water is provided by the Tulián and Cieneguita rivers. There are no reservoirs, but there are small catch basins and dams at heads of these rivers. Two aqueducts carry water to subject port: 14" x 12" from Tulián Dam and 10" from Cieneguita Dam. Pumping station is located near mechanical shops of Tela Railroad Company. Purification plant is located by Laguna where water is treated with chlorine, alum and filtered. Purification equipment consists of two alum tanks, three filters, and one chlorinator.

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- 3 -

Chlorine content per gallon is .5 to 1.00%; water tests show very satisfactory for human use. Water distribution is by 14" water main tapering 4" from Laguna to Campo Rojo. Twenty-four hour service is maintained. Filter capacity is 1500 gallons per minute.

16. Health Malaria, intestinal parasites, and social diseases are prevalent in subject port. Inoculations are made as preventative measures. A dispensary is available for use of United Fruit Company employees; numerous physicians are available in subject port.

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